

Dear Sirs:

I am in strongly in favor of reinterpretation of the rules to allow use of the Sky Command System. The major objection to eliminating what I believe is unnecessary overregulation of remote operation seems to be overcrowding on the 2 meter band. I monitored the 2 meter band local repeaters and simplex frequencies here in central, coastal New Jersey for a 1 week period during the peak usage periods of the morning rush hour (6-9 AM), and from approximately 6 PM to midnight on weekdays. I monitored from approximately 6 AM to midnight on the weekends. The usage of the local repeaters was fairly heavy during the rush hour periods and moderate to light at other times. The simplex frequencies' were very lightly used, for short periods of time (typically 3-10 minutes), and on only one occasion was more than one frequency used at the same time. Continued sampling indicates the same results. I can quite easily monitor repeaters in New York City, but rarely hear simplex conversations unless one of the parties is atop the Empire State Building or other tall building. Perhaps others have different observations, but based on mine, it would seem that the perception that the 2 meter band is very crowded, is based primarily on repeater experience, and not on simplex frequency use. By extrapolation of the data, for the vast majority of suburban and rural America, it appears that the Sky Command System's use of 2 meter simplex frequencies would not present any real problem. A second concern expressed by some is that Sky Command users would simply start transmitting on a 2 meter simplex frequency without first listening for activity. Since the Sky Command "Commander" or controller is listening on the 2 meter frequency and the HF radio is commanded to transmit HF audio on that frequency by pressing a key on the Commander's key pad, it is easy to comply with good Amateur practice and listen before commanding the HF audio to begin transmitting. With the application of good Amateur practice, I don't see any reason that the trend toward deregulation cannot be applied to the Sky Command System and allow it's use as currently designed.

Thank you,

Gary P. Standorf
KB2YOX
Amateur Extra